

NTP Nonneoplastic Lesion Atlas

Thymus – Mineralization

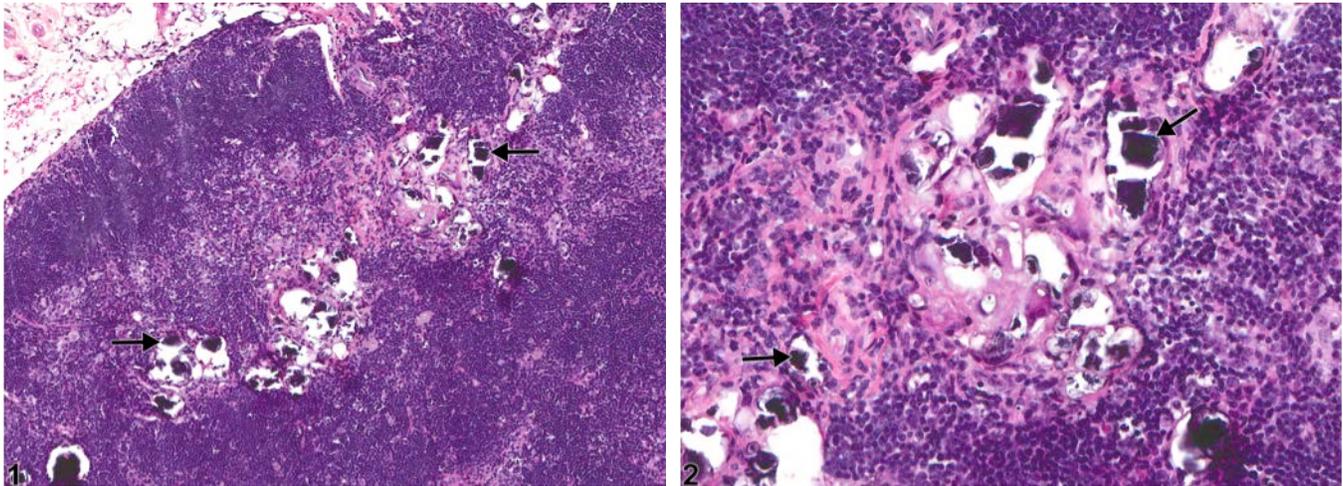


Figure Legend: **Figure 1** Thymus - Mineralization in a male B6C3F1/N mouse from a chronic study. Multiple mineralized foci (arrows) are present within the thymic medulla. **Figure 2** Thymus - Mineralization in a male B6C3F1/N mouse from a chronic study (higher magnification of Figure 1). Mineralized foci are characterized by variably sized, densely basophilic, amorphous material (arrows).

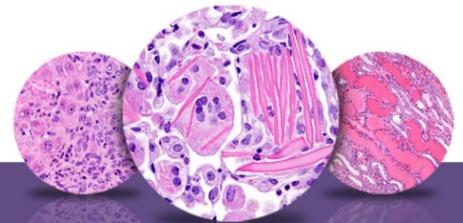
Comment: Mineralization does not typically occur as a primary lesion in the thymus. However, it can occur secondary to renal and/or parathyroid disease (metastatic mineralization) or with thymic necrosis (dystrophic mineralization). This lesion is characterized by variable amounts of densely basophilic, amorphous, and/or granular material (Figure 1 and Figure 2, arrows). Mineral may occur as multifocal lesions within the thymus with renal or parathyroid disease or may occur within necrotic foci.

Recommendation: Thymic mineralization should be diagnosed and graded if associated with renal and/or parathyroid disease. Mineralization associated with thymic necrosis should not be diagnosed separately unless warranted by severity, but should be described in the pathology narrative.

References:

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Abstract: <http://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/go/6082>



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References:

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Full Text: <http://tpx.sagepub.com/content/34/5/515.long>

Stefanski SA, Elwell MR, Stromberg PC. 1990. Spleen, lymph nodes, and thymus. In: *Pathology of the Fischer Rat: Reference and Atlas* (Boorman GA, Eustis SL, Elwell MR, Montgomery CA, MacKenzie WF, eds). Academic Press, San Diego, 369-394.

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